

must forward completed voluntary acknowledgments or copies in accordance with § 303.5(g)(2)(iv). Under State procedures, this entity must be responsible for promptly recording identifying information about the acknowledgments with a statewide database, and the IV-D agency must have timely access to whatever identifying information and documentation it needs to determine in accordance with § 303.5(h) if an acknowledgment has been recorded and to seek a support order on the basis of a recorded acknowledgment in accordance with § 303.4(f).

(h) In IV-D cases needing paternity establishment, the IV-D agency must determine if identifying information about a voluntary acknowledgment has been recorded in the statewide database in accordance with § 303.5(g)(8).

[40 FR 27164, June 26, 1975, as amended at 50 FR 19650, May 9, 1985; 54 FR 32310, Aug. 4, 1989; 56 FR 22354, May 15, 1991; 59 FR 66250, Dec. 23, 1994]

§ 303.6 Enforcement of support obligations.

For all cases referred to the IV-D agency or applying for services under § 302.33 in which the obligation to support and the amount of the obligation have been established, the IV-D agency must maintain and use an effective system for:

(a) Monitoring compliance with the support obligation;

(b) Identifying on the date the parent fails to make payments in an amount equal to the support payable for one month, or on an earlier date in accordance with State law, those cases in which there is a failure to comply with the support obligation; and

(c) Enforcing the obligation by:

(1) Initiating income withholding, in accordance with § 303.100;

(2) Taking any appropriate enforcement action (except income withholding and Federal and State income tax refund offset) unless service of process is necessary, within no more than 30 calendar days of identifying a delinquency or other support-related non-compliance with the order or the location of the absent parent, whichever occurs later. If service of process is necessary prior to taking an enforcement action, service must be com-

pleted (or unsuccessful attempts to serve process must be documented in accordance with the State's guidelines defining diligent efforts under § 303.3(c)), and enforcement action taken if process is served, within no later than 60 calendar days of identifying a delinquency or other support-related non-compliance with the order, or the location of the absent parent, whichever occurs later;

(3) Submitting once a year all cases which meet the certification requirements under § 303.102 of this part and State guidelines developed under § 302.70(b) of this title for State income tax refund offset, and which meet the certification requirements under § 303.72 of this part for Federal income tax refund offset; and

(4) In cases in which enforcement attempts have been unsuccessful, at the time an attempt to enforce fails, examining the reason the enforcement attempt failed and determining when it would be appropriate to take an enforcement action in the future, and taking an enforcement action in accordance with the requirements of this section at that time.

[54 FR 32310, Aug. 4, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 25840, June 25, 1990]

§ 303.7 Provision of services in interstate IV-D cases.

(a) *Interstate central registry.* (1) The State IV-D agency must establish an interstate central registry responsible for receiving, distributing and responding to inquiries on all incoming interstate IV-D cases, including URESA petitions and requests for wage withholding in IV-D cases, and at the option of the State, intrastate IV-D cases no later than August 22, 1988.

(2) Within 10 working days of receipt of an interstate IV-D case from an initiating State, the central registry must:

(i) Ensure that the documentation submitted with the case has been reviewed to determine completeness;

(ii) Forward the case for necessary action either to the State PLS for location services or to the appropriate agency for processing;

(iii) Acknowledge receipt of the case and ensure that any missing documentation has been requested from the initiating State; and

(iv) Inform the IV-D agency in the initiating State where the case was sent for action.

(3) If the documentation received with a case is inadequate and cannot be remedied by the central registry without the assistance of the initiating State, the central registry must forward the case for any action which can be taken pending necessary action by the initiating State.

(4) The central registry must respond to inquiries from other States within 5 working days of receipt of the request for a case status review.

(b) *Initiating State IV-D agency responsibilities.* The IV-D agency must:

(1) If the State has a long-arm statute which allows paternity establishment, use the authority to establish paternity whenever appropriate.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, within 20 calendar days of determining that the absent parent is in another State, and, if appropriate, receipt of any necessary information needed to process the case, refer any interstate IV-D case to the responding State's interstate central registry for action, including URESA petitions and requests for location, document verification, administrative reviews in Federal income tax refund offset cases, wage withholding, and State income tax refund offset in IV-D cases.

(3) Provide the IV-D agency in the responding State sufficient, accurate information to act on the case by submitting with each case any necessary documentation and either the Interstate Child Support Enforcement Transmittal Form or the URESA Action Request Forms package as appropriate. The State may use computer-generated replicas in the same format and containing the same information in place of the forms.

(4) Provide the IV-D agency or central registry in the responding State with any requested additional information or notify the responding State when the information will be provided within 30 calendar days of receipt of the request for information by submit-

ting an updated form, or a computer-generated replica in the same format and containing the same information, and any necessary additional documentation.

(5) Notify the IV-D agency in the responding State within 10 working days of receipt of new information on a case by submitting an updated form and any necessary additional documentation.

(6) Send a request for review of a child support order to another State within 20 calendar days of determining that a request for review of the order should be sent to the other State and of receipt of information from the requestor necessary to conduct the review in accordance with § 303.8(f)(1) of this part.

(c) *Responding State IV-D agency responsibilities.* (1) The IV-D agency must establish and use procedures for managing its interstate IV-D caseload which ensure provision of necessary services and include maintenance of case records in accordance with § 303.2 of this part.

(2) The IV-D agency must periodically review program performance on interstate IV-D cases to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures established under this section.

(3) The State must ensure that the organizational structure and staff of the IV-D agency are adequate to provide for the administration or supervision of the following support enforcement functions specified in § 303.20(c) of this part for its interstate IV-D caseload: Intake; establishment of paternity and the legal obligation to support; location; financial assessment; establishment of the amount of child support; collection; monitoring; enforcement and investigation.

(4) Within 75 calendar days of receipt of an Interstate Child Support Enforcement Transmittal Form, a URESA Action Request Form or other alternative State form and documentation from its interstate central registry, the IV-D agency must:

(i) Provide location services in accordance with § 303.3 of this part if the request is for location services or the form or documentation does not include adequate location information on the absent parent;

(ii) If unable to proceed with the case because of inadequate documentation, notify the IV-D agency in the initiating State of the necessary additions or corrections to the form or documentation.

(iii) If the documentation received with a case is inadequate and cannot be remedied by the responding IV-D agency without the assistance of the initiating State, the IV-D agency must process the interstate IV-D case to the extent possible pending necessary action by the initiating State.

(5) Within 10 working days of locating the absent parent in a different jurisdiction within the State, the IV-D agency must forward the form and documentation to the appropriate jurisdiction and notify the initiating State and central registry of its action.

(6) Within 10 working days of locating the absent parent in a different State, the IV-D agency must—

(i) Return the form and documentation, including the new location, to the initiating State, or, if directed by the initiating State, forward the form and documentation to the central registry in the State where the absent parent has been located; and

(ii) Notify the central registry where the case has been sent.

(7) The IV-D agency must provide any necessary services as it would in intrastate IV-D cases by:

(i) Establishing paternity in accordance with §303.5 of this part and attempting to obtain a judgment for costs should paternity be established;

(ii) Establishing a child support obligation in accordance with §§303.4 and 303.101 of this part and §303.31 of this chapter;

(iii) Processing and enforcing orders referred by another State, whether pursuant to the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act or other legal processes, using appropriate remedies applied in its own cases in accordance with §§303.6 and 303.100 through 303.105 of this part and §303.31 of this chapter; and

(iv) Collecting and monitoring any support payments from the absent parent and forwarding payments to the location specified by the IV-D agency in the initiating State no later than 15 calendar days from the date of initial

receipt in the responding State. The IV-D agency must include sufficient information to identify the case, indicate the date of collection as defined under §302.51(a) of this chapter or that the payments were made through State income tax refund offset, and include the responding State's identifying code as defined in the Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS) issued by the National Bureau of Standards or the Worldwide Geographic Location Codes issued by the General Services Administration.

(v) Reviewing and adjusting child support orders upon request in accordance with §303.8(f)(2) of this part.

(8) The IV-D agency must provide timely notice to the IV-D agency in the initiating State in advance of any formal hearings which may result in establishment or adjustment of an order.

(9) The IV-D agency must notify the IV-D agency in the initiating State within 10 working days of receipt of new information on a case by submitting an updated form or a computer-generated replica in the same format and containing the same information.

(10) The IV-D agency must notify the interstate central registry in the responding State when a case is closed.

(d) *Payment and recovery of costs in interstate IV-D cases.* (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), the IV-D agency in the responding State must pay the costs it incurs in processing interstate IV-D cases.

(2) The IV-D agency in the initiating State must pay for the costs of genetic testing in actions to establish paternity.

(3) If paternity is established in the responding State, the IV-D agency in the responding State must attempt to obtain a judgment for the costs of genetic testing from the party who denied paternity, or, at State option, from each party so long as the total amount requested does not exceed the actual costs of the genetic tests, and, if costs of genetic testing are recovered, must reimburse the initiating State.

(4) Each IV-D agency may recover its costs of providing services in interstate non-AFDC cases in accordance with §302.33(d) of this chapter.

(5) The IV-D agency in the responding State must identify any fees or costs deducted from support payments when forwarding payments to the IV-D agency in the initiating State in accordance with § 303.7(c)(7)(iv) of this section.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0970-0085)

[53 FR 5257, Feb. 22, 1988, as amended at 53 FR 18987, May 26, 1988; 53 FR 21645, June 9, 1988; 53 FR 27518, July 21, 1988; 54 FR 32311, Aug. 4, 1989; 55 FR 25840, June 25, 1990; 56 FR 22355, May 15, 1991; 57 FR 30681, July 10, 1992; 57 FR 61581, Dec. 28, 1992]

§ 303.8 Review and adjustment of child support orders.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Adjustment* applies only to the child support provisions of the order, and means:

(i) An upward or downward change in the amount of child support based upon an application of State guidelines for setting and adjusting child support awards; and/or

(ii) Provision for the child's health care needs, through health insurance coverage or other means.

(2) *Parent* includes any custodial parent or non-custodial parent (or for purposes of requesting a review, any other person or entity who may have standing to request an adjustment to the child support order).

(3) *Review* means an objective evaluation, conducted through a proceeding before a court, quasi-judicial process, or administrative body or agency, of information necessary for application of the State's guidelines for support to determine:

(i) The appropriate support award amount; and

(ii) The need to provide for the child's health care needs in the order through health insurance coverage or other means.

(b) *Plan for review and adjustment.* (1) Effective on October 13, 1990, the State must have a written and publicly available plan indicating how and when child support orders in effect in the State will be periodically reviewed and adjusted.

(2) During the period from October 13, 1990 through October 12, 1993, the State must, for orders being enforced under this chapter:

(i) Determine whether such orders should be reviewed, using the plan specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

(ii) Initiate a review, in accordance with the plan, at the request of either parent subject to the order or of a IV-D agency;

(iii) Notify each parent subject to a child support order of any review of the order at least 30 calendar days before commencement of the review;

(iv) Adjust the order when the review determines that there should be a change in the child support award amount, or that health insurance should be required, as indicated by the review in accordance with the State's guidelines for support described in § 302.56 of this chapter.

(v) Following any review, notify each parent subject to a child support order in effect in the State, of:

(A) Any adjustment or a determination that there should be no change in the order; and

(B) Each parent's right to initiate proceedings to challenge the adjustment or determination, either through pre-decision review, appeal, or administrative review, within at least 30 calendar days after the date of the notice.

(c) *Review of child support orders.* Effective October 13, 1993 or an earlier date the State may select, the State must, when providing services under this chapter:

(1) Have in effect and use a process for review and adjustment of child support orders in effect in the State, including a process for challenging a proposed adjustment or determination.

(2) Notify each parent subject to a child support order in the State of the right to request a review of the order, and the appropriate place and manner in which the request should be made.

(3) Periodically publicize the right to request a review as part of its support enforcement services as required under § 302.30 of this chapter and include notice of this right as part of information on IV-D services under § 303.2(a)(2) of this part.